

## **DRAFT MINUTES/UNAPPROVED**

### **Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting---March 17, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Lou Stamp at 6:30 p.m.

**Attendance:** Al Centone, Joe Cappucci, Mary Lou Stamp, Susan Puzycki, Richard Wilson. Also in attendance: Richard Branigan, Director of Public Works and Parks, Eileen Pettit, Acting Director of Community Services & Recreation, Gerardo Sorkin, new Director of Community Services. Dan Riccio (Secretary).

Absent: Suzanne Lewis, Frank Montagna.

**Public Participation:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Director's Report – Parks:** Richard Branigan stated that the High School construction project is winding down. The varsity baseball field will be re-done soon with improvements to the drainage system and re-sodding in the left field. It will take this field out of play for the spring. This does not impact on the soccer field. It is unclear if it will be available for the summer, but perhaps the baseball field should be left alone until next year in order for it to settle and let the sod grow in. There are two other fields available for play, Bailey Road and Brookfield, both being in play and fully scheduled.

The new tennis courts are on line. The varsity girls and boys are back at the high school. The high school boys and girls lacrosse teams are hosting games at both the multi-purpose fields and Vanacore Field under lights. They will practice at Mill Road behind ACES. The lacrosse club will play there and also behind the Recreation Center.

In regards to field scheduling we have received input from the high school and various leagues, girls softball, adult softball (men's and women's), as well as special programs such as golf. All schedules are being put on a master schedule. Everything is heavily programmed and being used. We are getting a number of requests from non-cosponsored travel type teams, whether its AAU, fast pitch softball, travel team baseball, premier club soccer to use the ball fields because they have ties to residents. Public Works will not be permitting any other travel teams to use the fields.

Montowese Park – they are doing renovations on the ballfield.

The Columbus Day Parade is being held in North Haven this year. Portable bleachers will be supplied by New Haven (verbal agreement).

Anthem and Quinnipiac campus on Bassett Road – ongoing discussions with the soccer club. Public Works to keep the Commission posted.

Grover Wyman Park – Report of a complaint about conditions at the park and playground. It is 11 years old now and he feels it is very well maintained. In fact, it is one of the better parks. The complaint was reported to the Selectman's Office. The issues were addressed and he does not feel any child was in danger and the issue seemed over-exaggerated.

Italian Festival – The festival will be held on August 22 and August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Primary Electric has been requested to look at the site for possible additional work.

**Director's Report- Recreation:** The Youth basketball program concluded on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. This year's program under the direction of Art Leary was very successful. We received very positive feedback from many of the parents whose children participated.

Spring registration has begun for both recreation and pool programs.

The Annual Easter Extravaganza took place on Saturday, March 15, 2009 at the Recreation Center from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The indoor event included pictures with the Easter Bunny, face painting, top hat and bonnet contest, entertainment and refreshments provided by McDonald's. At the conclusion of the event, each child received a bag of chocolate eggs. Reason we moved it indoors years ago because of the weather and also the candy...everyone gets an equal amount.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2008 at Sinoway Pond on Upper State Street. Once again, we expect to see over 300 children register for this event.

Planning for the summer programs is underway. Day Camp, Playgrounds and Little Rec'ers will run from June 30 through August 1, 2008.

Planning for Music Under the Stars 2008 is underway. The series will begin on Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and conclude on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. We have put together a great line-up. (See attached sheet) **Concerts on Tuesday evenings.**

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Steve Fitzgerald, Open Advisory Committee, would like to meet the last Thursday of each month, starting in March. Mary Lou Stamp will attend. However, she cannot attend in July and August and would like someone to come forward and attend those two months.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Al Centone to adjourn, seconded by Rich Wilson. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.